

An interview with Paul C. Frisz (1)

PAUL FRISZ

An Interview Conducted by

David Piker

August 17, 1980

SpC.  
977  
.245 (2)  
F  
G.C.

c1981 by the Vigo County Public Library  
Terre Haute, Indiana

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

VIGO COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 5202683

SpC. 977.245:F

"WORKS OF REFERENCE"

## NARRATOR DATA SHEET

08/21/80

DATE

Name of narrator: Paul C. FriszAddress: 25 South 25th Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47803 Phone: 232-0664Birthdate: 07/01/1907 Birthplace: Terre HauteLength of residence in Terre Haute: 73 yearsEducation: University of Dayton Prep School2 years at University of DaytonOccupational history: MacFadden--8 years (publishing company)Western & Southern Life--8 yearsCentral Hotel owner-Manager--20 yearsOwner, Terre Haute Baseball Club--1956Special interests, activities, etc. Baseball history and  
collecting of baseball materialMajor subject(s) of interview: Development of professional  
baseball in Terre Haute; great players who were members of local  
team, Bud Taylor (champion fighter), Central HotelNo. of tapes: 1 Length of interview: approx. 1 hour

Terms of legal agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

## Interviewing sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
08-17-80	1:00 P.M.	25 S. 25th St.	Dave Piker

8202683

PAUL FRISZ

Tape 1

August 17, 1980

Mr. Frisz' Home -- 25 South 25th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana

INTERVIEWER: David Piker

TRANSCRIBER: Kathleen Skelly

For: Vigo County Oral History Program

©VCP 1981

DP: We're talking to Paul Frisz for the Oral History project. It's August 17, 1980. We're talking to Paul at his home located at 25 South 25th Street in Terre Haute.

Paul, first discuss the development of professional baseball in Terre Haute. When did it begin?

FRISZ: Well, the teams that are known and . . . 1882 -- they weren't really professional, but they imported some players -- outstanding players around in the state of Indiana. When they'd hear of them, they'd bring them in if they could get them. And we had two teams at the same time in 1882. One was called the Terre Haute Awkwards. That's a funny name for it, but they weren't awkward by a whole lot. Then the other one was the Terre Haute Blues. And they had the local material pretty well split up. They would bet their pay on the ball games, you know. And boy, I mean they really fought for victory. I mean between those two teams. Andy Gallagher whose son Skeets Gallagher was in the movies was a star on that team. That's the father of Skeets Gallagher. Skeets, I think, went to Rose Poly Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology for a while and to Hollywood later and became a star comic in the teens and twenties.

DP: Were they in a league at this time?

FRISZ: No, no league; there wasn't any league, and it wasn't really professional. It was a semi-pro club. But semi-pro, you know, they got paid, but it wasn't professional yet. And there were two brothers. There was William "Kid" Myers. He has a daughter that's living here in Terre Haute now -- out in Edgewood Grove Mrs. Louis Strecker. And Ernestine Myers Morrissey is the daughter of Albert "Cod" Myers. Her dad is a brother to this "Kid" Myers, and Ernestine Myers' dad played eight years in the big leagues National. He was a second baseman and very good.

DP: Which teams did he play for?

FRISZ: Philadelphia. Back -- I think that was before Connie Mack was in Philadelphia. [Also Kansas City and Washington, D.C.]

The brother was really, they claim, as good a player. This William, they called him "Kid" Myers. And Ernestine Myers' dad is the one that went to the big leagues, but "Kid" Myers wouldn't go. [Brothers Albert and William played 1882 and 1883 for Terre Haute.]

DP: This was in 1882. When then -- and you mentioned this was semi-pro [baseball] -- when did Terre Haute get its first professional, fully professional, team?

FRISZ: It wasn't very long there. Let's see. [18]84 was the first league they were in.

But now in '82 and '83, when . . . when like St. Louis would be going to Indianapolis . . . Indianapolis was in the big leagues [National League] then. When they would travel, they would stop off in different locations and play to pick up all the money they could. And Terre Haute would play an exhibition game. And these teams . . . in '82 and '83, our Terre Haute team played exhibition games against Louisville that was in the big leagues and, of course, St. Louis was, and . . . .

DP: Where did they play?

FRISZ: They played at . . . about 17th and Wabash [Avenue on the south side of the street]. Now, I've wanted to try to look up the history on that, but I will. I will if I live long enough. (chuckle and laughs) And I expect to! But . . . or I hope to. They played there. That's where it started, and they played there for a number of years. They had a park there -- not too hot, you know. Back in its time it was, you know, okay. Several years there.

Then, in 1884 it was in the Northwestern League. That was a 12-team league. Indianapolis was in it, and Toledo, and a bunch of teams. Terre Haute was in that league.

DP: This was still a minor league?

FRISZ: Oh, yes. It was a minor league. Terre Haute never was in the majors, and . . . . It was really a little bit too big a bite for us, to be honest about it. I mean, our team finished . . . out of 12 teams we finished about 10th or something like that, see. I've got the records, but we want to keep it moving here so . . . . We had a pretty good team, but there was some real good stuff in there then. You see that was before the American League was ever born. It didn't come along until 1901, which would have been about 20 years later, see.

But this Albert Myers -- he played about eight years in the big leagues. They called him "Cod," 'cause they came here from Danville, Illinois, and his dad had a fish market. And Albert got the nickname of "Cod" because of the fish market. And Will, his brother Will, they called him "Kid" Myers. He generally played third base or caught and Albert Myers was a star second baseman and I mean a star. He starred as a fielder. He was with Washington first and then Philadelphia. And . . . .

DP: You mentioned Terre Haute was in this league that may have been over the team's ability a little bit. Did they then drop from that league and go into another league?

FRISZ: That league didn't finish the season. It went, oh, two-thirds of the season. It went into . . . oh, it got into August [about mid-July] I think. Then it didn't finish the season. I don't remember the date any more. It's immaterial anyway. But the . . . anyway they had good games, and they had good teams in there.

The gate, of course, was not what it needed to be to pay salaries and traveling and all that, you know. So several of those players . . . a few of those players . . . one on Terre Haute's team was Albert Stump [a local boy]. I think he . . . it seems to me that I've heard he was a . . . became a dentist -- here in town. There was a lot of local talent on the team. There was Andy Gallagher. I told you Skeets was a son of his, and . . . .

DP: Now around the 1900's -- around the turn of the century -- didn't Terre Haute then . . . that was when they got into what's known as the Three-I League?

FRISZ: Yeah. That was about the tenth league that Terre Haute had been in, the Three-I League. That was in 1901, the Three-I League was born. And we have . . . I call it an honor that Terre Haute won that very first pennant because that was, in baseball history years ago, if a guy came out of the Three-I League, he had something. It was a fast -- a very fast -- league. It was class B but they could beat some A teams; they were good. The higher teams sent their boys to the Three-I League. There were other leagues around the country, but it was regarded as one of the . . . one of the best in its class, you know. And that cup -- that silver cup -- that they won in 1901, it was given to me by that bank [now located] across from Schultz there at . . . is that 2nd? No, 4th . . . between 3rd and 4th [Streets] on Wabash Avenue. They [Wabash Federal Savings and Loan Association, now merged with the Fort Harrison Savings and Loan Association] gave me that. He [Elmer H. Fritscher, assistant secretary of Wabash Federal] said, "We're haulin' all this to the dump. Paul, I called you up to see if you would want any of this." He said, "Can you get down here in a day or so?" I said, "I'll be there in about 15 minutes." So I went down and got [the silver trophy cup]. But some of the stuff had gotten hauled to the dump. But I did get [a couple boxes and] the silver trophy from 1901. And Terre Haute didn't win another pennant until 1922, I think it was -- when Bob Coleman won. That was the second pennant. And I've got both of those cups.

DP: In the 70-some years that there was baseball in Terre Haute -- professional baseball -- how did this fit into the life of the local residents, the social life? In other words, did they draw good crowds?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah, they drew . . . they drew good. Yeah. And, of course, back in those days even the majors didn't draw anything like today, you know. But they drew good crowds. And it was well patrolled. They had police out there to handle the crowds, you know.

DP: What would have been a good crowd?

FRISZ: Oh, they'd have a thousand, two thousand, maybe three thousand. And then on into the Three-I League, you know, we got up to where the biggest crowd we had was about ten thousand six hundred and some. That was the night -- it was a drawing night -- that they gave away a Chevrolet. They saved their tickets.

DP: What year was that?

FRISZ: Well, there were two years they had a 10,000 crowd. It didn't happen . . . . It was two of the years . . . the Phillies were here nine years, and it was two of the years the Phillies were here. It was -- let's see -- their last year was 1954. I'd say those two good years were about '51 and '2, and that '51 was, I think, the biggest; then '52 it came down a little and from then on -- down, down, down.

DP: Now you mentioned that the original baseball field was located about 17th and Wabash. Were there other fields?

FRISZ: I don't think so. I think that was . . .

DP: Through the years though?

FRISZ: Well, yes, yeah. That was the first one baseball field. I've threatened to try to dig into that, but I don't know . . . I'm so busy with all this other stuff, you know, that it's more . . . . I like to dig, but this is more enjoyable digging into stuff on the players and all of that, you know. It's more enjoyable than digging up just the real estate thing, see; but I'll find out.

But the second . . . the second park was approximately real close to where the Trianon was. On the south side of Wabash Avenue in about the 2800 block That was the second park. They called that Athletic Park. And that was . . . 1884 is when that was. They built that in the spring of '84. And that's when we went into . . . the 12-team Northwestern League. That was the first league of any consequence, or any size; that had . . . . About four of those teams in there went into the big leagues. Indianapolis went in; and, I think, Detroit was in it; and . . . . There were about four of them, see. Evansville was in it, too.



FRISZ: Terre Haute teams played at Athletic Park for forty years -- 1884 through 1924. Manager Roy Whitcraft won us the third pennant in 1924.]

DP: How did Memorial Stadium the third park happen to get built? How many years did they play at this athletic park?

FRISZ: Well, that Memorial Stadium was dedicated to the War World War I veterans, you know. That was built in about 1924, I think it was, and in honor of the veterans of the second first World War there, and . . . guess it was the second one, wasn't it? Yeah. Anyway, we were going good in baseball, and well, the whole country was. But we were . . . we were somebody in the baseball field. In the class B, Terre Haute was . . . . The big league clubs liked to send their players here, because we had a good town and a good park. That was one of the finest parks for a league of this size. I expect it was the finest in its . . . class when it was new, you know.

DP: Now how did people get to the game? Did most of them have cars? Or . . . .

FRISZ: Well, no. The bus and str-- . . . the buses or . . . they didn't have buses then. They had streetcars, you know, and taxis, and walkin'. A lot of people walked. Then, too, a lot of fellas would bring their neighbors. They would bring whole car-loads of them.

And when we had to fold July 4, 1956, the buses were on strike, and a lot of people couldn't come to the ball game. They were too old to walk -- a lot of them. We tried to get . . . . We announced at the ballpark -- "Help your neighbor. If you have a neighbor that's a ball fan, why, give him a ride. Bring him to the ball game; he'd like to see it, too, and he can't get there. The bus is on strike." That helped some, but it didn't help enough.

When we had to fold, we were averaging 800 . . . we were averaging 850. We had to average 1250, so I knew a month ahead of time we were going . . . we weren't going to be able to make it. And when I went up to Detroit to tell them, they were shocked. The Terre Haute team was a farm team of the Detroit Tigers, a major league team. At this particular time,



FRISZ: Mr. Frisz was sole owner of the franchise.<sup>7</sup> They were surprised. They said, "Why, you're in first place." I said, "That doesn't make any difference. The money on the shelf is meltin' every game. We're falling 400 paid admissions below what we have to have to get the nut off. And I can tell right now in 30 days . . . in 30 days, we'll be broke." Since there at the end I owned it myself, and I didn't want to lose everything I had in the deal . . . .

DP: But the team was in first place at that time?

FRISZ: Yeah. As we were coastin' downhill that last 30 days we went out of first, but we were in first place when the lightning struck, you know.

DP: Do you think the bus strike was . . .

FRISZ: Well, I don't want to blame anything, but that hurt us. That dealt us the body blow. And another body blow -- but it was a good thing, I mean it was a good cause -- they started a second little league. They had two little leagues. A man isn't much count if he don't take an interest in his own kid to, you know, and the family go to see the kids play. 'Cause the kids are more important than anything else; you gotta raise them right. And there's a lot of people ought to wake up and think about that right now. We wouldn't have so many kids that don't have a chance. But, anyway, with two leagues and the buses down, that dealt the body blow to us, see? But, like I say, be sure it's clear. I want people to understand I'm not knockin' Little League. No, no, no; that's fine.

DP: What were the other things that caused the team to fold; caused the attendance to drop?

FRISZ: Well, things were a little rough back in . . . I guess that was kind of a depression period right in there, you know. That was the main thing. The buses and people, you know, needed to support the kids, you know. Then if it was a depressed period -- I guess it was -- that was just one thing, you know, and then another . . . . I guess work wasn't so good, layoffs, stuff like that maybe.

DP: Who were some of the more outstanding ballplayers who played in Terre Haute and who went on to play in the major leagues? There were also some who played in Terre Haute who went on to become named to the Hall of Fame. Will you discuss some of the more outstanding players who played for one of the many Terre Haute professional baseball teams?

FRISZ: There's about 20 countin' Terre Haute and the close-in, surrounding territory . . . say, like Clinton and, you know, around close to us here. There's probably a little better than 20.

The stars though, of course, were Mordecai Brown and Art Nehf. Now, Art Nehf, you see, came along -- he pitched against Brown. But Brownie was finishin' up when Art was still . . . Brownie was older than Art.

DP: Now, he pitched against Brownie. In the minors? Or in the . . .

FRISZ: No, in the majors. Yeah. Brownie pitched on our first team here -- 1901 -- the first team in the Three-I League. Our first year in the Three-I League Brownie was our star. He was an infielder. I got all the box scores, every one of them. The first few games he played shortstop; he played wherever they needed somebody. He could hit, and he could field because he had been an infielder. They didn't know where he was going to be when they signed him, see. So then they saw he could pitch. And this manager played in the big leagues and he played in the minor leagues -- the manager, Bill Krieg (k-r-i-e-g). He was our manager, and he played on a minor league team in the East with Connie Mack. And Connie Mack and him -- several on that team were sold to Washington, D.C. So Bill Krieg went right to Washington, D.C. with Connie Mack. That was in the 1880's. In those early games that year when they bought Krieg and Connie Mack, why . . . Mack was the catcher. That's when they [the catcher] had a glove on each hand with the fingers cut off, you know. [One was the throwing glove, the other was the catching glove.] Krieg's hands looked like a pretzel. You know, all busted . . . had been broken . . . a lot of bones broken, you know, over and over.

FRISZ: Albert Myers . . . [was] our second baseman from that early team in that Northwestern League in 1884. Myers was with Washington first and then got traded to Philadelphia after several years. He put about half his years -- he put in about 8 or 10 years in the big leagues, about half of them with Washington and half of 'em with Philadelphia. [See addenda.]

But the third baseman [for Washington] was from here. [James B. Donnelly of New Haven, Connecticut, played for Terre Haute in 1884.] If Krieg played first base (he played first base or catcher) . . . . If Connie Mack caught, Krieg played first, and Albert Myers played second, and our third baseman -- I can't think of his name right now -- played third.

DP: We were talking about Mordecai Brown.

FRISZ: Yeah. That's how . . . That [Myers, Krieg, and Donnelly] was our first major-leaguers or, I mean, that batch . . . [went major league in 1884.]

Brownie went up about -- see that was in the 1880's. I suspect I should have told you that first. This is all in my head, you know what I mean, and I gotta spill it as it comes in my mind.

DP: How many years did he play in Terre Haute? Mordecai Brown? Did he play here for very long?

FRISZ: Only one.

DP: Only one year?

FRISZ: Only one, and he belonged to us the second year but they offered him more money at -- I believe it was Omaha. And he jumped our team and went to Omaha. [After his 1902 season at Omaha in the Western League was completed, Omaha returned Brownie to Terre Haute.]

That isn't something to be proud of, but it's nothin' to be ashamed of because they did it. They played for peanuts. He got about 50 bucks a month for playin'. A month!

[During the late winter of 1902 or in early spring Terre Haute sold Mordecai Brown to the St. Louis Cardinals.]

DP: This was in the minor leagues?

FRISZ: At Terre Haute. Three-I.

DP: Was this an average salary for a ball player then?

FRISZ: Well, it was for a beginner. See, he had no background. He just played for the coal mines. Coal mine employees formed their own baseball teams and Brown dug coal and played baseball for the mine which employed him. Boy, they had good players. They had good teams. They were tough.

DP: How old was he when he was in the . . .

FRISZ: Well, he was, I would say, about 20 . . . maybe a little more than 20. We could look up his date of birth there, but we don't want to take that time. I'd say he was about 20, maybe a little more than 20. But he had a good long career, though, in the big leagues. Born October 19, 1876

DP: You mentioned that he did have a long career. Can you talk about how long he pitched and some of the outstanding achievements that he reached?

FRISZ: Yeah. See, I got his record there, but it would take . . . I got the time, I mean, but we don't on this. So . . . He would have pitched about 15 years. 1903-1916 He . . . like all of 'em when they're runnin' out o' gas, they move around from one team to another. His first stop was St. Louis, and then they traded him (he was doin' pretty good there) and they traded him to Chicago. They St. Louis needed help so they gave Brownie up, a promising young pitcher, for a star pitcher John W. (Jack) Taylor who was comin' down. He'd been a terrific pitcher. I can't think of his name now, but he'd been a terrific pitcher. They got a catcher -- one of the O'Neills (there were four O'Neill boys, brothers that played in the big leagues). One of those O'Neill brothers John Joseph "Jack" was in that trade. This pitcher and O'Neill, the catcher, -- I believe there was another player involved -- come down to St. Louis, and Brownie went up to the Cubs.

FRISZ: Then in about one year Brownie was great. And they [the Cubs] had a pitcher from Notre Dame -- Ed Ruelbach, a big Dutchman -- that was real good. He was an ace, too. That's when they won a bunch of pennants. They had three or four ace pitchers -- three for sure.

DP: So Mordecai Brown played in the world series?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. He was in about five of 'em . . . four or five. [1906, 1907, 1908 and 1910] Yeah.

DP: What was unusual about him?

FRISZ: Well, what made him great in the big leagues was: It was like havin' a fifth infielder. He could field. And I don't mean an average fielder; he was a star. He could shag 'em; he could git 'em. And he could hit. He wasn't a home-run hitter, but he could get on base. He could hit and he could run bases. He weighed about 185, and he was about 5'11".

DP: He wasn't like most other pitchers, was he?

FRISZ: No. He had . . . you see, being an infielder before he was a pitcher, that was a tremendous break for him. That's where he had it on the rest of those guys, quite a bit.

DP: But he received an injury . . .

FRISZ: He would go in a game -- incidentally, I didn't mean to sidetrack you -- but he would go into a game . . . they'd call him off the bench without warmin' up. Yeah. Today I mean a pitcher would . . . he'd want a strike, if they told him to do that. He'd want a pay raise or somethin', you know, but ol' Brownie, he'd get off that bench and go out there and stop 'em, boy. He had it then. He got a lot of credit and he deserves every bit he got. He was that great. Yeah.

DP: Has Terre Haute . . . . You were talking about, of course, Mordecai Brown probably the most famous player to play here. Was he born in Terre Haute or . . . ?

FRISZ: No, he's born out at Nise-- . . . some say Nizeville. The book says Nyesville [IN], I believe they call it. It was really kinda a miners' camp.

FRISZ: Really, we get hooked out of the credit for saying he was born in Terre Haute. But he was out about a few miles, up toward Rosedale. He's buried here. He and his wife are buried side by side in Roselawn Cemetery. His nephew, Ray Brown, was a bowling singles champion in 1940 and was quite a pitcher. But he couldn't afford to pitch for the kind of money they paid when Ray was pitchin', see? So he . . . he Ray was a natural athlete. He was a great bowler, and he could do . . . I don't know if you've played basketball, but if you put the ball in his hand and show him for about a week, probably he'd be a star on the team. He's a natural.

DP: What were the players like, let's say, between 1900 and . . . the mid-1950's when the team finally had to close its doors? What were the players like? Were they a rough bunch or . . . ?

FRISZ: Well, no. They were . . . they didn't give ground. You know what I mean. Any ball player, you know . . . they . . . I don't mean fist fights; I mean they don't back down. I mean they give it all they got; they run as hard as they can run and they play as hard as they can play, you know how that is.

But . . . And the umpiring improved tremendously in the 'teens and then on up to, you know, the present time. I've got a . . . I was gonna say a funny picture hangin' there that was in the paper last summer. It shows two umpires caught that play at second base. One says, "Safe," and the other one is flaggin' that he's out. Well, that's a good picture. You don't see an unusual thing like that very often. Those guys are expert, and they're very good at it.

But back in the 20's like when Bob Coleman was here, he was probably the greatest manager we ever had -- Bob Coleman. A wonderful man. Wonderful man.

DP: Was there much difference back in the early 1900's in the way the game was played as we know it today? Did they have the same amount of players?

FRISZ: Yeah. Same . . . It was nine-man, same thing. Generally, they didn't carry as many extra players on the traveling squad like now. They didn't have the money then. A lot of times an outfielder pitched, and maybe they'd only have . . . they wouldn't have as many pitchers. They'd have, maybe, three or four

FRISZ: pitchers, you know, back in the early times, see? But a lot of times they'd . . . some of them would play the outfield. If they could hit like Brownie, see, Brownie, he come off of third base and pitched his first game for the coal miners. It was a big game between two mines, and they [the miners] all had their paychecks bet, as I understand it, on the game, you know. And Brownie didn't give 'em a hit in that first game he pitched. He didn't give 'em a hit [until the seventh inning]. Ray Brown's dad told me that -- John Brown. He was a good ball player, too, but he didn't get into pro ball much 'cause you see the class B, they give 'em about 50 bucks a month, something like that. Why, hell, if he -- pardon me (chuckle) -- if he was married, how could he get by on it? You know what I mean.

DP: Now you mentioned that we were in class B. How many leagues . . . I mean how many different leagues were there?

FRISZ: Well, in those days there was, I would say, B and maybe a few C's. Back in the . . . oh, in the late 20's -- late 20's, in through the 20's -- they had C and D [AAA-AA-A-B] and maybe some E's. [In 1901 there were two major leagues and 17 minor leagues -- see addenda.]

DP: If you were in class B, then the next step was the major leagues?

FRISZ: B and then . . . no, no. B and then A and then double A and then triple A.

DP: And then the majors?

FRISZ: [Not necessarily!] Indianapolis was triple A, see. American Association, Pacific Coa-- . . . They had three triple A locations. The Pacific Coast -- they had all the big cities out there. That was triple A. And the American Association here in the Middle West -- Indianapolis and Kansas City and so forth, Toledo, Columbus -- that was the American Association. And then in the East was the International League. That would be Rochester and the big cities -- Albany maybe and, you know, big cities in the East.



FRISZ: Then the major leagues . . . there was the two major leagues back then. And then in about the time of the war -- about 1918 . . . no, about '13 is when the Federal League was started. That was major league. But they didn't . . . The first year they operate, they don't class 'em as major. Then the second year if they made out -- if they're still goin' and strong -- then they were major league. Federal League was classed as minor league the first year; second year, major league. It operated three years and then hit the wall.

DP: Now, what was your direct involvement with the team and when did you first become involved with the local professional team?

FRISZ: Well, I've always been a baseball nut or bug or whatever you wanta call it. I like the word nut better than bug. I hate bugs. (laughs) Anyway, back when I went to boarding school 1922, my roommate was from St. Louis. His folks sent him a subscription to The Sporting News, and my sister, Blanche, she sent me a subscription to the Terre Haute Tribune. So I had the local news in the Tribune. He gave me his Sporting News when he was done with it, see. I went to boarding school there at the University of Dayton -- four years high school and two years to college. So those six years, anybody have a question on baseball they'd look me up and settle their bets -- settle their arguments, you know. Because I'd buy that baseball guide each year, and I could look up anything, you know. I'm tickled to death that I have that hobby because I never have time on my hands. And for the benefit of anybody or people that are listening, you better have a hobby 'cause when you get older, you're in a bad way if you don't have a hobby. Have a clean hobby, too. Because now like me . . . my wife lets me alone, and when I get restless, down I go down in the basement. I got a yard and a half of stuff down there to dig in.

DP: What . . . .

FRISZ: I mean, you're lost if you don't have it.

DP: When you first became manager -- or owner, was it -- of the Central Hotel, that was kind of your first . . .

FRISZ: Yeah. First head of the ballplayers.

DP: Where was the Central Hotel located?

FRISZ: 714 Ohio -- just east of 7th Street. It was torn down about 10-11 years ago. We had a 10-year lease twice, so we were there 20 years. Twenty years and seven months. We come out of there in about the middle of '56, I think it . . . no, wait a minute . . . . Yeah, I guess that's when it was, about the middle of '56 [August] we come outa there.

DP: Now the ball players lived . . .

FRISZ: Yeah. They [most of them] lived there. I gave them a real low rate, you know, 'cause a lot of 'em were [on short rations]. You see you were allowed about 15-16 players. Well, about four or five of them had real good wages -- three to four hundred [dollars]. Some of them a thousand or better.

DP: Are you talking about a month?

FRISZ: Yeah. A month.

DP: A month?

FRISZ: Yeah. And some of 'em had more if they were a bonus player, see. But they would always send three or four experienced heads on a team, you know, to help coach -- help teach their younger boys, you know. Some of the new boys, if they weren't a bonus player, had only about . . . maybe \$250-\$300 a month. Well, I kinda looked out for them a little bit. Didn't hurt me, and I was glad to try to help 'em, you know. And if they fell short, I'd loan 'em a few bucks. But I'd tell 'em; I'd say, "Payday, an hour after you cash your check, you pay me or there won't be any more." And nobody ever beat me for a nickel. None. No ball player ever beat me. And they're good boys, but you gotta help 'em, you know. And I would guide 'em, too. I'd see 'em foolin' around and I thought they shouldn't be, I'd say, "Your personal life is your own business, but you're not going to get anywhere if you're gonna be foolin' around." Stuff like that, you know.

DP: How did you happen to become an official of the baseball team?

FRISZ: McMillan. Vern McMillan [former Terre Haute Mayor]. When they brought baseball back . . . see, it'd been gone for 10 years or something like that, and when they brought it back when the Phillies . . . wait a minute. When the Phillies left, you see . . .

DP: When was that?

FRISZ: The Phillies left in . . . '54 was their last year. They were here nine years. Now, we did without baseball.

DP: By Phillies, you mean this is the major league team that is sponsoring a local team?

FRISZ: Right, right. We were a . . . they had two class B farms: our team and Wilmington, Delaware. That was their two class B teams. We were class B and they were. The Phillies were here nine years. '54 was their ninth year. Then, we tried to get [a new sponsor]. The fans kept wantin' a team. Well, McMillan was appointed . . . I was on the baseball committee. There were about 15 or 20 of us on that committee and McMillan was appointed to go to the baseball convention and see if he couldn't get a parent ball club for us. A major league team to put a team in here. And he did. He got Detroit.

Going to the bank each day from the hotel, I'd go out the alleyway and by the Merchants Bank. [When I] passed the bank, I'd bump into McMillan a lot of times, 'cause he was going up to visit the stock market up there in the bank. So I'd say, "Hey, Mack! How's the baseball look? Are we gonna have some or not?"

And he'd say, "Yeah. I believe we are. We got a hook-up," he says, "with Detroit. It's tentative. We're not settled yet, but," he says, "we got a hook-up -- it looks like we're gonna have one with Detroit. It'll be a class B farm for Detroit just like we were for Philadelphia class B farm." And he said, "Dave recommended two fellas as the business manager, but," he says, "they want \$7500 salary for the job, and that's too stiff for us. We can't handle that." And he said, "Say," he says, "Why don't you run the team?"

FRISZ: I said, "Who? Me?" I said, "I never ran a team."

He said, "Yeah, you're nuts on baseball." And, he said, "And you're a good business man. I know you could run it."

I said, "Well, I don't know."

And he said, "Well, I gotta give 'em an answer."

I said, "Gee, you're not givin' me much time."

And he said, "I know you can do it."

I said, "Okay, You twisted my arm." I said, "Okay. I'll try it." I said, "Only thing is I want you to promise me if I don't run it to suit you, you just say the word and I'll quit right then," I said, "because I don't want to foul it up for the town. We want baseball here, and I'll do my best, and," I said, "I'll take it for less than half of that."

So I think I got three thousand dollars . . . three and a half, I believe I got . . . I believe it was. It was three thousand five hundred, and I ran it the first year. Then the second year I bought those guys out, and I ran it on my own. And the Lord was with me, because I . . . in selling the uniforms and stuff when we folded, why, I think I ended up about a couple hundred dollars the loser, and that is absolutely like losing a candy bar. I mean, or you know, that's nothin' in baseball. My God! I coulda got my back broke.

DP: The team folded in 1956?

FRISZ: In the middle -- Fourth of July. We ended play with the night game here July 3, 1956.

DP: Fourth of July, 1956 was the last. That next year or between that time and the next summer were there any efforts made to try to revive the team or . . . ?

FRISZ: Well, this fellow that's judge now /Judge James A. Lewis/ -- this blind boy, fine fellow -- he used to call me. We'd talk over the phone for a half hour or an hour sometimes. He's crazy about baseball, and he could tell you . . . I never cut him short. We'd talk and talk, you know. And a lot of people called; and there was somebody wantin' to put a team in. I guess I kinda killed it. When I told them what we were facin', they decided to leave it alone. It's a different thing now. It's a big job, I mean, it's tough.

DP: Was there night baseball played at the stadium?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. We played night ball. We didn't play any day ball, except Sunday afternoon. Sunday afternoon was the day game.

DP: Just because you couldn't draw any people during the day?

FRISZ: Well, everybody had to work. That was a big obstacle in a way. See, they had to work and at night, that's when the Little Leagues played; and like . . . I hope nobody interprets this that I'm critical, because I'm not. /At that time a second little league was operating and with two little leagues playing at night they drew fans too./

DP: Were there any major league teams that played at Memorial Stadium?

FRISZ: Exhibitions. Yeah. Detroit came in here and they played . . . Let's see . . . Detroit played the Cubs, I believe -- exhibition game. I oughta know. I think it was the Cubs, and I think Boston . . . We had Boston, too, because somehow they had passes -- box seats. There was an ol' Boston star in his day that was kind of a business manager or somethin' for them, and the ticket agent . . . where the tickets were for the box seats, they got misplaced. He just got all over me, because the tickets were lost.

I said, "Listen, don't give me any o' that big city talk." I said, "The tickets are misplaced, but I know what box you got; you got the whole box, so follow me, and I'll take you to the box and then you leave me alone. Just forget it. You got a box there and enough for all of you to sit." But he thought he was still a star, but he wasn't, you know.

DP: Were there any great major league players that played here during those exhibition games?

FRISZ: Oh yeah. Yeah. We've had, you know, [Babe] Ruth, [Lou] Gehrig played here. That was 'way back though. I got a picture . . . you've seen the picture.

DP: What do you mean, 'way back?

FRISZ: Well, that was a few years before he dropped out. He and Gehrig and, oh, Max Carey of Pittsburgh played here. Max was our boy, you know; he was born here on South 8th Street, down in the 2300-2400 block down in there.

DP: He was another great local ball player?

FRISZ: Sure.

DP: Could you give us some details about him?

FRISZ: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Max started out to be a Lutheran minister, and he went to Concordia at Fort Wayne. When he went through that school, then he went to Concordia -- a sort of a higher studies -- at St. Louis. He was nuts about baseball. He was a natural. Your best ball players are born ball players, you know. I think they are. They polish up the apple when they get up there, you know. They polish them up, but it's gotta be in 'em to be a genuine major leaguer. It's gotta be in 'em.

Max saw South Bend play in the park where the Trianon used to sit, and that's where Max played his first game of pro ball. He played it for South Bend [old Central League]. They signed him. Terre Haute wouldn't sign him. They just thought he was an eager kid, you know. When the team come out of the Terre Haute House, Max was waitin' for the manager of the South Bend team, when they came out. Max had asked our Terre Haute manager -- I forget who it was and I wouldn't want to say anyway 'cause I'm not ribbin' anybody -- and Max talked to that South Bend manager. And he said, "Gee," he said, "I wish you'd give me a chance to work out with your team." He said, "I know I can play short-stop better than the guy that played it yesterday."

FRISZ: He made three errors. And he says, "I know I can play." (He was a shortstop.) And he said, "I know that I could play it better than he did. I'd like to have a chance. If he's better than I am, fine, but I'd like to have a chance."

He said, "Okay. I admire your guts, kid. You come out and suit up and we'll give you a chance."

So they gave him a chance. And when they went to put him in the game, the manager said to Max (his name was Max Carnarius) and he says (they're from Germany, wonderful people, wonderful people), "What should I tell the umpire? What's my name?"

And they said, "Carey! That's enough." It was Carnarius, see, so that was where the Carey came from. He played a good game. I think he got a couple of hits. I got the box score. We've been friends for years and years.

DP: And he went on to play in the major leagues?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. He went on. He was the champion base stealer.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

DP: Okay, Paul, you were mentioning that Max Carey -- of course, born in Terre Haute -- went on to the major leagues and became one of the base stealers in major league history.

FRISZ: Right, right. He was -- like I say -- he was German. To me, that tells me one thing -- he's determined. The German people . . . a lot of other people are, too, but I've noticed through life -- and our parents came from France but it was controlled by Germany, but anyway -- German people are determined people generally, you know. I don't mean unreasonable but they're determined. And he was determined to be a better hitter than he was. He would wear everybody out pitchin' to him, see. He'd stay out as long as anybody would stay out with him to pitch to him.



FRISZ: And he voluntarily became a switch hitter, and that added about ten points to his batting average. He was a smart guy. He was intelligent; and he was clean-cut and . . . well, he started out to be a minister.

DP: What teams did he play for?

FRISZ: Well, he played his whole career with Pittsburg until they had a squabble in the office somehow and they got rid of some of the old-timers. And, of course, they needed to rebuild, and Max went to Brooklyn. And he managed Brooklyn.

DP: Oh, he was a manager also?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. He was the manager at Brooklyn. But they didn't have anything there, so he managed for a couple of years at Brooklyn. Then he went around the country managing girls' baseball teams. And he was good at that. He had championship girls' teams.

And we've had some real good girl teams here in Terre Haute the last few years.

DP: What would you say . . . you know, you've studied Terre Haute baseball, what would you say are some of the highlights of professional baseball in Terre Haute.

FRISZ: The most important thing to me out of baseball here are the great . . . the fellas that Terre Haute put on the road to stardom in the big leagues. And there were . . . oh, golly -- there's been a . . .

DP: How many offhand would you say . . . how many players played in Terre Haute and then went on to play . . .

FRISZ: Now, that's not just . . . Terre Haute boys, about 20. But players that played here and then starred in the big leagues -- well, super stars -- I'd say there's at least, oh, at least a hundred or better. More than that. And I'd say that Terre Haute boys that played in the big leagues . . . some were just better than average; some played a few games

FRISZ: and didn't make it. Put it all together, there'd have to be 'way over a thousand, 'way over. I could tell you how many . . . . I had a count on it, but I haven't looked at it for a long time. I'd say we've had about at least twenty-five hundred fellas that played professional baseball for Terre Haute here, see, but they weren't . . . . not that many made the big leagues. I'd say that probably half of them did.

When we were a farm for Cleveland and when we were a farm for the St. Louis Browns, before Cleveland was here in the early 20's, that's when Bob Coleman . . . he worked for the Browns at first . . . and there were, oh, many of them, many stars. And many prominent ones.

DP: Gonna get away from baseball for just a minute. Members of the oral history committee wanted me, also, to ask you about the highlights and the success of the career of Bud Taylor, who was from Terre Haute, who was a noted prize fighter.

FRISZ: Yeah. Bud Taylor was a terrific guy. I'm not sayin' anything disrespectful, but I have an autographed photo. I have a picture of Bud -- a real good picture of Bud. And then I compiled his lifetime record and have it. It's an 8 by 10 picture and about half of the width of it is his picture, his boxing pose. The other side, the other half, is his lifetime record. He met, I think it was, 17 different men that held the world's championship; and he fought 'em 30 some times. He always fought the best 'cause he was after the money.

DP: What division did he fight in?

FRISZ: Bantam weight and feather weight. And that means a hundred and fourteen pounds to a hundred and twenty-six pounds. And he was a human dynamo. He was fast as lightening. There never was a cleaner fighter in the ring (I'm sure that I'm right) and he had a knockout punch with either hand. He broke both hands at different times. He'd break a bone I mean he'd break a bone in the hand, you know. And he had a trick shoulder that, when he would deliver that knockout punch, that shoulder would go out of place sometimes. And some New York doctor that admired

FRISZ: him [operated on Bud's "trick shoulder"]. There was never a better crowd-pleaser. (I haven't seen all the fighters by any means, but there was never a better crowd-pleaser or a cleaner fighter than Bud Taylor.) That's the God's truth. And he loved to fight, but he was clean. And I saw the first big fight that [Bud had] when the Chicago manager that had Tommy Gibbons [saw him]. Tommy Gibbons was a great light heavyweight. He never was quite heavy enough to be dangerous in the heavyweight field, but he did fight Dempsey once. I think he went the distance, too. But I read where his head was so sore for weeks after he met Dempsey that he couldn't wear his hat. He had welts -- sore bruises -- all around his head where Dempsey would pound on his head, see.

But Bud had a knockout punch in either hand and he, like I say, was after the purse -- after the money -- and he had to be 'cause he didn't have anything.

DP: Was there a lot . . . . When was this? What time period are we talking about?

FRISZ: That was about, oh, let me think now -- about seventh grade for me. It would be [19]12. Let's see, I was about 14, so that'd be . . . 14 (I was born in 1907) about 1921.

DP: Was there a lot of prize money to be had?

FRISZ: Yeah, oh yeah, the purses were good, you know. He made a lot of money.

DP: How much? Would you estimate?

FRISZ: I really don't know how much he made. But he had some big fights and then that was on percentages, you know. I would say he probably had many a fight that he made possibly, maybe, five or ten thousand -- somethin' like that, you know. That was big money back then, you know. I saw the first big fight he had. A local fellow, Tex Johnson, was his manager. He found Bud. Bud was a Postal Telegraph delivery boy. He'd be in a fight about every day. Somebody would pick a fight with him, and he'd oblige them. And,

FRISZ: you know, they rode bicycles, they'd play marbles and shoot crap, and, you know, he was a rough little kid. But he was clean. He wasn't dirty or mean. He could take care of himself. But, anyway, Tex Johnson had him, and Bud fought a preliminary fight on a card that Tommy Gibbons was on. I saw the bout in the Grand Theater /29 N. 7th Street/. This manager of Tommy Gibbons saw Bud's fight. He'd heard a lot about Bud, and Bud fought and won his fight. Bud fought a preliminary to the big heavyweight, see, or the light heavies -- whatever.

Tommy Gibbons knocked his man out with a punch that only traveled about a foot. He hit him right where your ribs come together. Right where the heart is. And they say when he punched, it was a punch about a foot or eighteen inches like a screw-driver. He'd twist his arm as he threw that punch in there, and, boy, that guy was out! But, anyway, Bud . . . after that fight, they /Eddie Kane and Eddie Long/ got together with Tex Johnson and bought his contract, and they took Bud.

And about the first fight they put 'im in, they put him against the American flyweight champion, Frankie Mason from Fort Wayne. And the local fans were just a-buzzin', sayin', "Oh, those guys from Chicago -- bigtown -- they're hungry; they're puttin' Bud up too fast; he's not ready for that yet." Well, that's what they thought.

I saw that fight.

DP: Was it in Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. K of C /Knights of Columbus/ Club, upstairs. And a priest at St. Ann's, Father /Aloysius/ Duffy, was a great sport. Us kids in about the eighth grade . . . why, four or five of us, he told us that wanted to go, he said: "You be at the bottom of the steps at the K o' C, and you be as quiet as a mouse. Don't you make any noise, no hollerin', no nothin'. And after the preliminary bouts, why, when they give me permission, I'll come to the head of the stairs, and I'll motion, and you come up and you be real quiet, and I'll show you where the seats are. You keep your mouth shut or they'll throw you out." So we saw the fight.

DP: Did he win? Did Bud Taylor win?

FRISZ: Well, in those days, they didn't have . . . they had what they call "no decision." They call it a draw -- no decision fights. I don't know why they did that. But anyway, that's the way it was. But Bud whipped 'im. But it was a no-decision bout; you don't get credit. His record would be . . . he's ranked third or fifth best in the world of all time. And he'd rank higher than that if it wasn't for those darned no decision fights cause he knocked the socks off nearly all of 'em. But anyway, in that fight -- I'll tell ya this and then I'll get off of it -- he . . . Frankie Mason was a handsome fellow. He had real curly hair, and he had it parted in the middle. It lay in rows, just waves. Just so. And the first couple of rounds it was . . . Bud'd jump in there and tap, tap, tap, you know, and Frankie Mason would dance around, you know, and there wasn't much action, see. Bud couldn't get a good swat at 'im, see. So Bud was not one to clinch, but he grabbed Frankie Mason and got his head under his arm and he took the strings on his glove and he smeared -- mussed up -- Frankie's hair. And, boy, Frankie Mason really threw some gloves then. He had been the American flyweight champion. So then they really battled. I saw a lot of Bud's fights through the goodness of Father Duffy. But when Bud would get hit hard, he would just grin, and, boy, would he tear that guy apart! You see, he could hit . . . he could hit about as hard with one hand as the other. He packed a knockout punch with either hand.

DP: Did he have any title fights here in Terre Haute while he . . .

FRISZ: No. No title. 'Cause they had to get where they could have a bigger house.

DP: How old was he? You mentioned that he started out -- was kind of found -- when he was a telegraph boy. How old was he at this time?

FRISZ: Bud was born in 1903. He was born July 22, 1903, here in Terre Haute. His first bout was in the K of C hall at 9th and Ohio, which is torn down now. It was late in November of 1919. That was his first fight.

DP: - So he was only 16 years old?

FRISZ: Probably so. And the highlight that I mentioned a while ago, here's the exact figures. He fought 17 different world's champions for a total of 35 times, because they were all after the money and that would draw, see, him fightin' the champion. He could whip . . . he was a match for any one of 'em and none of 'em had it on him.

DP: How many years did he fight?

FRISZ: Well, he started in 1919 and . . . where's the end of it? His last fight was March 16, 1931 . . . . Wait a minute . . . . His last ten months in the ring . . . . Oh, no, that was about the . . . I'd say about 1931.

DP: What happened to Bud Taylor?

FRISZ: Two of the fellas he fought, died. He killed two.

DP: Oh, is that right?

FRISZ: Now, I don't know how else to say it and that's no disgrace. He killed, in one fight, Frankie Jerome. He happened to be a Catholic boy, and Bud went to the funeral, you know, to pay his respects. Frankie Jerome's mother was there, and she come up to the casket, and she put her arm around Bud. Bud was cryin', see? She told him, "It's all in the game. We knew that. Don't feel badly. We know it wasn't intentional." And she was a wonderful lady, and it helped Bud.

Then another time he fought one of these Filipinos. They were real good, you know. Clever Sencio was his name -- the other one. And he died after the fight, the next day or somethin' like that. But Bud wasn't brutal, you know. He had the punch. He had more punch than his stablemate Sammy Mandell, and he was the lightweight champion. Bud could whip him any time, any day of the week. Sammy couldn't hit. Bud had the punch of a heavier man. In fact, Bud would have made a lightweight. I wish they would have let him grow a little more 'cause they held his weight down, because they were both in the same stable.

FRISZ: That way that gave them the lightweight champion of the world and a bantamweight champion.

DP: And he was bantamweight champion of the world? Right?

FRISZ: Yes, he sure was. There's his championship belt.

DP: What happened after he finished his fighting career? Did he return to Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Oh, yeah, but his money was gone. His money was gone, and he got a job as an iron worker. Bud wasn't too good to work. You know what I mean. And you see, I heard that in training, to hold his weight down . . . see, he fought at about 118, 120, in the 120's, and after he quit fightin', he got blubber fat. He was bigger around than I am, quite a bit. He burned out the tissues that throw off the fat or whatever. That's out o' my field.

DP: Is he still living?

FRISZ: No, no, no. Bud died -- it's on there -- he died March the 9th, 1962, in the French hospital in Los Angeles. And after the services [his body] was flown back to Terre Haute; and after services here, was buried in Highland Lawn cemetery in the family plot. I don't think I'm quite right on that family plot, but it might be. I didn't notice anybody around him, but he's got one of those marble slabs the length of the grave. Jim Hollis, the monument man [Terre Haute Monument, Inc.], was instrumental . . . . He raised some money for that. But I know . . . I don't think he raised near enough to . . . I think Jim did Bud a little favor there. Jim Hollis is a fine man. Bud was divorced, you know, but he always remained friends with his wife. And his second wife, they were friends. Bud wasn't mad at anybody. Bud was just an easygoin', nice guy. He was clean. But, boy, he certainly was a tremendous fighter!

DP: Paul, also, what can you tell us about the Croxton Hotel?

FRISZ: Well, that really . . . in the early days, that really was a theatrical hotel.



DP: In the early days, what years are we talking about?

FRISZ: Well, I'd say back when I was in grade school. In other words . . . I was born in 1907, I was 17 . . . around the first war, around 1917, 18, along in there, you know. In the '20s, early '20s, along in there. The Hippodrome 8th and Ohio Streets . . . I don't know what year it was built but they had vaudeville. And most of those vaudeville people stayed in the Croxton Hotel.

Mrs. Croxton was a wonderful lady. I know her. I knew her real well.

DP: Where was the hotel located?

FRISZ: 714 Ohio. You know, where . . .

DP: Where the Central Hotel was . . .

FRISZ: Yeah. Were you in there when I was there?

DP: No.

FRISZ: Well, it was right . . . it's a parking lot there now, you know. But that was handy for us, too, 'cause the parking lot was beside our hotel. And we had traveling men. We ran it straight; we didn't tolerate any monkey business. I'll tell you somethin' kinda funny. Mr. Charles Ellis, manager of the Terre Haute House, was a good friend of mine. If I had any question, I'd go over and ask him, and he would advise me. And I knew Demas D. Waterman at the Deming, too, and he was very nice, too. But, anyway, when people would come in that we didn't want to take a chance on, why, we would tell them we didn't have anything available, and they could go out the door and go to the corner and go one block north. They'd get a room at the Terre Haute House. (Chuckles)

So Mr. Ellis told me one time: "Paul, quit sending us your overflow." (Laughs)

DP: How did Terre Haute change? You were talking . . . . The Central Hotel was known as the Croxton Hotel first.

FRISZ: Yeah.

DP: How did downtown Terre Haute change in all those years?

FRISZ: First I'll tell you about the Croxton. After Croxtons left there, then I think Mr. Edgar Turk, who had been the auditor and I don't know what all at the Deming and then at the Terre Haute House, then he took over the Central himself and I think around the time (He either did it, or somebody did it right before him.) changed the name from Croxton to Central 'cause it was . . . it was the central . . . . It was one block off of the center corner of the downtown, 7th and Wabash. We were one block away. So that's about when the name changed. We operated it from January 1948 to August 1968. The top two floors, or the floor and a half . . . there were three floors. The top floor, we rented those rooms permanent, by the week or month. And the second floor, we rented half of it by the week or the month. Then the bottom floor and half of the second floor . . . in other words, there were three floors. A floor and a half, we gambled by the day. And the top floor and a half, that was our sure take. So our sure take was sufficient to get the nut off, to get us by. So it wasn't too much of a gamble.

DP: How much did a room cost in those days?

FRISZ: Oh, boy. Our best room was three dollars and a half, single. Imagine that? Gosh. (Laughs)

DP: How did Terre Haute change though in the years between the two hotels?

FRISZ: You mean like . . .

DP: Development, and businesses . . .

FRISZ: Like the Deming and the Terre Haute House? Well, all the while we were in there, the Terre Haute House did good. Joe Sullivan was manager for a long time, and they had a good business. And then -- what's his name? The older gent Charles Ellis. . . golly, isn't that awful? I can't think of . . . I said his name a few minutes ago there when I said . . . I told 'em we sent people . . .

DP: Hillis?

FRISZ: Who?

DP: Wasn't it Hillis?

FRISZ: No. Anyway he was very nice. He was a veteran hotel man, you know. Doggone it, I can't think of his name!

DP: Was business good in regards to this overnight business, because there really wasn't much between Terre Haute and St. Louis or Indianapolis then, was there?

We got a lot of traveling men. We had traveling men that I was told by them and by some of the wives that Terre Haute was the only . . . when they made this trip to Terre Haute, they'd bring their wives 'cause they could leave her in a hotel room and know that she wouldn't be molested or that she didn't need to be afraid, and she was just around the corner from all the stores, you know, and they liked it. There were a number of 'em that would bring their wife when they'd come, like from Indianapolis or Evansville or even Chicago or, you know, St. Louis. And there were a lot of them that would bring their wife. They'd write ahead, and we'd mark the room off for them, you know.

DP: Because you were at the center of shopping and entertainment?

FRISZ: Yeah, and we didn't permit any monkey business, any drinking. If they drank in their room, that was their business. But if they come out in the hall and staggered around, we'd check 'em out.

DP: What caused the hotel business in Terre Haute to die out? Why did you . . . retire?

FRISZ: Oh, the motels and all that. In other words, it's a new day. That was all. A new day come along, you know. You could just pull off the road and park your car beside your motel, and, you know, I think that was chiefly the . . . just the change of times and then these like . . . I'm surprised that someone hasn't put a big motel in the Honey Creek Square.

FRISZ: You know maybe they're smarter than I am, but I think one of the . . . . They are around the corner from it.

DP: How does downtown currently . . . how is it different than it was when you were in the Central Hotel?

FRISZ: Well, it's minus about three-quarters of the stores for one thing. You either . . . if you want a shop, you've only got . . . oh, I don't know what per cent, maybe one-fourth as many places to go to. You know they're not there anymore. And then parking is a worse problem. You drive down like the Avenues. My brother is still out on First Avenue. I go out there every few days, and I notice First Avenue is a little bit narrower than some of the other Avenues. It's solid cars parked on the street -- both sides. It used to be you had a lot of money if you had a car, you know, or there'd be two or three cars parked. Now, cars are parked all over the place. Even if you drive like south on 7th, you gotta watch out. You know, some new driver pulling out from the curb is liable to get you.

DP: How did people get around back then?

FRISZ: A lot of people walked. You know. And buses, of course. And those that had money and wanted to spend it, cabs. I never was much of a cab man myself.

DP: What about the urban transit system?

FRISZ: Yeah. That was great. That was real handy.

DP: Did that help . . .

FRISZ: I wonder if that day'll ever come back -- the interurbans? Maybe not. Probably not. But that was real handy.

DP: Did it run out to the ball park?

FRISZ: No. It run past it.

DP: That's what I mean.

FRISZ: Yeah. It ran right past it.

DP: Past Memorial Stadium?

FRISZ: Wabash Avenue. Yeah. But you couldn't buy a ticket through it to there. Street cars got that, you know. Buses. Buses and the street cars used to go out there, too.

DP: But was downtown busy and . . . .

FRISZ: Yeah. Oh, they did a lot of business. Yeah. And stores were open like Saturday night or diff . . . . I forget what nights any more. I never was much of a night shopper, except now you go down to Honey Creek once in a while. Just for the . . . you know, just to kinda see what's goin' on -- nose trouble.

DP: Okay. Well, we've been talking to Paul Frisz, noted baseball historian and also a person locally who was involved in the development of downtown Terre Haute.

This is an interview for the oral history project and it's August 17, 1980. My name is Dave Piker, and we've been talking to Paul Frisz at his residence at 25 South 25th Street.

END OF TAPE

PAUL C. FRISZ

Tape 2

June 3, 1981

Mr. Frisz' residence--25 South 25th Street, Terre Haute, IN

INTERVIEWER: David Piker

TRANSCRIBER: Kathleen M. Skelly

For: Vigo County Oral History Program

©VCP, 1981

DP: It's June 3rd, 1981. We're talking to Mr. Paul Frisz at his residence at 25 South 25th Street in Terre Haute. Our subject is the involvement Paul had in downtown Terre Haute as a businessman.

Paul, first, how were you associated with downtown Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Well, I was born and raised here and I knew all the stores and everything, you know. And a cousin of mine, a businessman (he's gone now; Charlie Smith was his name) he was operating the Tuller Hotel which is above . . . . It's upstairs over where the Goodie Shop is right now. The Goodie Shop never operated the hotel. When he was there, the Goodie Shop was underneath it, and he was running the hotel up above. But when Charlie dropped out, nobody could run it like he did, and so they just closed out the hotel. But he knew how to do it. There's a lot to running one, you know what I mean? You can't tolerate drinking and you can't tolerate fellas bringing dates or their friends into the room, you know. You can't have that. You got to run it either straight or a rough house, and he could run it straight. And we ran ours straight.

DP: When then did you get involved as the manager?

FRISZ: He told me. Charlie found out about the Central, and I saw him. And he said . . . he was a cousin of mine, and he said, "Paul, why don't you get out of the life insurance business and . . . ." I had a debit . . . no, by that time, I was a superintendent. I could make more money on a debit than I could as a superintendent 'cause you had to do everybody else's work for them. And when you're on a debit, you do your own work, see.

And so he said, "Why don't you take over that Central Hotel?"

DP: Where was it located?

FRISZ: Seven /Hundred/ fourteen Ohio. The first building . . . there was a building on the corner

FRISZ: of 7th and Ohio on the north side, northeast corner, and they came and went out onto 7th Street. So the back end of that building . . . then there was a small building, a second building, that was Leonard Marshall's law office and still is. And then there was a walkway and then there was the hotel. And it was a three-story hotel. There's a term for it, but I can't think just what it is now. The first floor was a half a story up. So, the basement actually was a half a . . . only about waist . . . from your belt down you were that much down in the basement. And your window . . . when you stood at the window when you looked out, your waist was about even with the ground outside.

DP: Now, what was the year that you got involved as manager?

FRISZ: Well, I took that over and signed the . . . let's see. I signed a ten-year lease and then when the ten years were up, we renewed it for a second ten.

DP: What year was it?

FRISZ: Well, that was '45, did she say? (interruption) That was 1948. The ten was '48 to '58. And then we had quite a little to do to it when we went in there. I don't know if you're interested in that or not. Anyway like we had to wallpaper all the rooms, paper all the rooms, and paint the frames in all of the buildings and all that.

DP: Now, most of your trade there at the hotel, how did they arrive in Terre Haute transportation-wise?

FIRSZ: Most of them drove. We got the traveling business. We got the traveling men rather. And many of them told me that our hotel was the only one on his route where he could take his wife along and go out and work all day and know that she was safe, that she was all right. And they could come and go, and we had somebody on the desk 24 hours a day, all day and all night. So, you know, no undesired people came in. I always told the clerk that you have . . . from when they'd step in the door, they had to walk about, oh, 15-20 feet across the lobby to the desk. I said you got about 15 to 20 feet there to size



FRISZ: them up, and if they don't look good to you, tell them you're sorry, we're full. (snickers) I'd send them to the Terre Haute House.

DP: Now, what was Terre Haute like then? Were there a lot of hotels or was there . . .

FRISZ: Oh, yeah. There were quite a few little ones, and there was a need for them. In fact, it's a shame they had to go out, you know.

DP: Why was there such a need?

FRISZ: Well, you take like traveling men. There's a lot of men that travel, like were on a commission basis. And if they had /good luck, fine/. If they didn't have good results you know, when you're working on a percentage, you have good days and bad days. They couldn't afford, unless they were really good you know, real good, most of them couldn't afford a higher-priced hotel. Well, it's just like now. Now, they couldn't afford . . . they can't hardly afford them now because while their income has gone up, the hotels have gone up, up, up, you know. So, that's about it.

DP: You mentioned that most of your trade were traveling men.

FRISZ: Yeah, most of them were traveling men. Yeah.

DP: What about the transportation in regards to the train traffic? Was there . . . did some of your business come into Terre Haute by the railroads?

FRISZ: Yeah. There was . . . like oldtimers that used to live here and come back to visit, you know? Why a lot of them came by train, you know. And we'd make a reservation for them. Well, that was about it. And then transient people. There were other hotels cheaper than ours, but ours had a good name and that's what does it. One tells another, you know, and that's the best ad you can have.

DP: What attracted people to Terre Haute back then?

FRISZ: Well, Terre Haute was always a . . . I think it

FRISZ: was always a good business town. My dad was a businessman here from the time he got married until he died. And he used to always say, "You take care of your business and it'll take care of you." And I kind of think his . . . I've been going through the same thing. I think that's true. If you don't take care of your business, you're really in trouble.

It's just like going to school. I mean if you get out of your books what's in them, you're going to be all right when you get out of there. But if you fake your way through or you just do enough work on your books to get by, you're going to have a rough road to travel and that is for sure.

DP: How long were you manager of the Central Hotel?

FRISZ: All the while I had it, 20 years. /My wife and I ran it ourselves. /We had two clerks, two maids, and one maintenance and laundry man.

DP: How did Terre Haute . . . how did downtown Terre Haute change in that time, in the 20 years that you were manager?

FRISZ: Well, there were a few buildings built. There was more, like remodeling. There were a few new ones though. I don't remember what ones, but it wasn't too bad down there. It was good. We were right across from the Tribune /building. We got a lot of printers there, too. And they were good trade.

DP: By 1968 a lot of people were no longer staying in the hotels downtown. When did you first begin to see the decline in the interest of travellers to stay in downtown hotels in Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Well, see we had two 10-year leases. And he /Leonard Marshall, our landlord wanted. . . they were thinking of building . . . tearing ours down. The building didn't need to be tore down because we kept it up. And most of the big repairs . . . he was hard to get it out of, Leonard Marshall. He was a fine businessman, but he didn't spend any

FRISZ: money carelessly. He promised me a paint job when we went in there, and I was in there about a year before I got it. And one day when I went in the bank . . . I'd stop about every month or so and ask him, "Mr. Marshall, when are we going to get that paint job? You know you promised me that or I'd never have taken that lease." And his wife was in there that day. I knew she was in there and I knew her. She used to live in a house of my father's. Her family did. And so I said, "You promised that you would paint it." And I said, "We don't want bum trade and it's got to look presentable." And she said, "Leonard did you promise that you'd paint that for Paul?" And he said . . . and he grinned and he said, "Yeah." And she says, "Well, why in the hell haven't you painted it then?" That's just what she said.

So, they did. They did then. He grinned and they did. [The hotel was painted.]

DP: Obviously, there was a lot of different business atmosphere in 1948 when you first started there at the Central Hotel as compared to 1968 when you left. A lot of the smaller hotels were no longer in business. When did they start to lose their business and close their doors?

FRISZ: Well, I'd say, oh, about . . . after we were in there about 15 years. In other words, [1963] . . . about [1965] along in there. And that's a guess now.

But ours didn't fall off very much because we'd get new people all the time and our old ones would always come back, you know -- or most always. So, we held up pretty good. Then, too, another thing that helped us [is] when the Tuller [Hotel] closed out. [It was about a 50-room hotel, too.] They'd had trouble with the lavatory -- maybe somebody not shutting the water [completely] off with the stopper in the lavatory or something, you know, or even in a bathroom, maybe. Water would overflow onto the floor and come down in the ceiling of the Goodie Shop, see? And that was one thing I think that caused them to close out. But we didn't have that happen at our place because the minute there was any kind of trouble, why we got on [it immediately]. I had a maintenance man that could fix anything and he was in his eighties.

DP: Why though did people stop coming to downtown Terre Haute in regard to business, shop . . . in regards to shopping and staying at hotels? You were a businessman at this time, what . . .

FRISZ: Well, there were motels that ate into it, you know. That took some of it. But not too much of the secondary hotels . . . I don't think the secondary hotels . . . the ones that closed out weren't run right. If they ran it right, they could have done better. I wasn't any star, you know. I didn't drop out of the clouds, I mean, a brilliant star or something like that. They should have been able to . . . ours went all right. And as long as Charlie Smith had that Tuller, it went all right. So, I'm inclined to think that it was careless management, careless, you know, registration. I always told them if they don't look good to you, tell them you're sorry, we don't have any vacancies. There's other hotels, plenty of other ones. They could go around the corner one block to the Terre Haute House. Get them out of there. Our hotel see.

DP: What were key businesses for you in regards to attracting clientele to your hotel? In other words, was there other things for people to do in downtown Terre Haute? Do you think that helped your trade, your business?

FRISZ: Well, when men would come in to inspect our hotel, we got good reports. We had a good name. And that was our biggest asset really. Our rooms were very plain, but they were clean and they were well kept. You know we papered the whole place and painted the building and all that had a lot of plumbing installed.

DP: We were talking about just what other types of businesses in downtown Terre Haute helped your business as the manager of a hotel.

FRISZ: Well, the whole thing was "to run it right." We did our best to run it right.

DP: Well, but . . .

FRISZ: That's all . . . but, you know, and to keep everything in good working order.

DP: But obviously though there were other things

DP: that people wanted to do when they came to Terre Haute and stayed in your hotel.

FRISZ: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. They had plans. They came to visit friends or they came to work in the town. And then when they'd find a house to rent, then they would rent the house and they'd say, "Paul, we're checking out." Or if the wife was with him, she'd be hunting a house while he was working -- like that you know. That was about it though.

DP: Was a lot of your . . . nowadays we see people staying in a hotel or a motel many times just for one evening. Was this the way it was when you . . .

FRISZ: Yeah. We had a lot of them one night, yeah. Of if it was a salesman -- you know what I mean -- that had his stops to make, call on different businesses you know, why they might be here several days if they . . . you know. Like when I was on the road, I was on the road eight years for McFadden checking agencies, news agencies. And I would be in a town two nights or three nights and then in the next town. You know and kind of that way, I mean.

DP: Was there any cooperation between businessmen like someone stayed at your hotel, did they get a special discount at a . . .

FRISZ: No, no. No discount. Our rates were rock-bottom. Our rates were low.

DP: But what kind of cooperation was there between businessmen?

FRISZ: Well, [when] the Terre Haute House would be full, they'd send people to us. The Deming would be full, they'd send them to us. And in fact, they'd send to us I think after the Deming and the Terre Haute House. We were about next. But we weren't when we went in there. I mean before we took it over we weren't. We, you know, gave it a face-lifting. The entire brick building was painted outside and all the windows and all that, you know, and papered inside. It was clean and comfortable, you know.

DP: What do you think helped caused the decline in

DP: the interest in downtown Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Well . . .

DP: You mentioned that . . .

FRISZ: . . . I think it's just a trend of business the way . . . . Now, I mean they, you know, tear down buildings that you wonder why they're tearing them down. I mean to me . . . I'm not a builder, I don't know. But I think they have tore down some (laughs) and replaced them with buildings that don't come up to what they tore down. But . . .

DP: In regards to transportation, do you think there were any reasons with traffic perhaps being routed in other areas besides downtown? Did that have something . . .

FRISZ: Well, it's possible that I-70 . . . of course, that come in after I was out of there. Let's see, I went out of there August 8, 1968, I guess it was. I was there 20 years and 7 months and 8 days. So I went out of there . . . . So motels were going pretty good then. I-70, that hurt this town because they'd /cars/ buzz right on by and not know it's here, you know. Oh, they can see Honey Creek Square down there.

DP: Were there any changes made at that time among businessmen? Now, you were manager of a hotel for 20 years. What were some of the changes you saw in the business community in Terre Haute to try to change with the changing times? Were there things that you did in the hotel or . . .

FRISZ: No. I just tried to keep the thing presentable, you know. And I think others tried to do the same thing. I don't know. Everybody's always /trying to improve/. Like the manager of Root's Store, he's a good friend of mine, a very fine fellow. And he's always working all the time. I seldom ever go in Root's but what I don't see him looking at this and looking at that. He's on the ball. Well, a lot of the businessmen, they've got a store to run. They've got quotas that have to be hit and all that sort of thing. And I think it's this self-pressure in their

FRISZ: own field like. It's like in school, I mean. You got to have passing grades; you gotta be on the ball like. I don't know. That's the way it seems to me.

DP: Do you think some of the businessmen created their own downfall?

FRISZ: Oh, definitely! My dad, I remember when I was a kid, my dad I heard him say a lot of different times when people would ask his advice, he'd say, "You know nine out of ten businesses that start, fail. Nine out of ten of them fail; so make up your mind if you're going to go into business, you're going to roll up your sleeves and you're going to do everything you possibly can to make a go of it. And you've got to be honest. And you've got to have it policed and presentable."

FRISZ: And my dad was a smart businessman, and he went to about the sixth or seventh grade in school. But you know . . .

DP: What about the people who stayed at your hotel who didn't have their own cars? What type of transportation did they use?

FRISZ: Well, I ought to tell you this part. See, there were three floors and 14 rooms on a floor so that was what? 42 rooms. That was 42 rooms -- 42 rooms on the first, second and . . . 14, 14, and 14 -- 42 rooms. Then downstairs -- this half story down -- I purposely put in eight rooms on the east side, eight singles. And I handpicked who I rented those to, because I had kind of an office down there on the front west side. And it was our living room, and I had my desk in the end of it there front of the window. I could look out from my desk and see everybody that went by. I was waving as much as I was writing. You know, you'd see 'em right in front of you there. And on our side of the building (that was the west side) we had our living room, and we had a small kitchen. And if we wanted to eat at home, we ate there. If we didn't, we were only half a block from the Goodie Shop. We'd go down to the Goodie Shop and eat if we wanted to.

And then there was a partition and there was a hall down there. There was eight rooms on the east

FRISZ: side that we rented out, and I rented them purposely to old gentlemen that looked good to me. And I'd say, "I can let you have this for a week or two and if possible, I'll let you have it longer." In a week or two, I knew then if I wanted them or not. And I only had to put one or two out in all the while we were there.

DP: Are these people who didn't have cars then?

FRISZ: Retired. They were retired. Old fellas that had to live on a pension.

DP: What type of transportation then did they use?

FRISZ: We rented those rooms . . . imagine this. We rented those rooms for \$8 to \$10 a week -- eight or ten dollars. Some were a little better than others, a little larger you know. So that way . . . I could have got more but you gotta live and let live, too. And I had a grand bunch of fellas.

One time I had a fella that came in about half tight. And I always told the night clerk if you have any trouble, just dial the phone and ring me in the bedroom and I'd come out. That particular night we had a crew of penitentiary guards. We got all of their business. Four guards to a crew rode a prison bus and brought a load of prisoners here. This was the nearest point. It was getting time for them to be turned loose, and they would bring them to the nearest point like here. And then maybe one of them went over to Paris or Princeton, Indiana. Or, you know, they'd bring them to the penitentiary here. The bus would come here from Atlanta, Georgia. If they turned them loose down there, it would be big train fares to send those prisoners home. The prison has to pay their way home when they are released. Well, they'd bring them to the nearest point -- to another federal prison -- and then release them. That's smart operation on their part. And there's two guards in the front end of the bus; one driving and one tells all the turns. He's responsible if they get on the wrong road, because one of those buses is rough to turn around if you get on the wrong road. And you can't hardly turn it around, you know. You have to go to the next road to get turned around. So they have a driver and a man that picks out and is responsible for all turns. In the back they have two armed men guards. And the bad prisoners



FRISZ: have leg irons on them in the seats /and sometimes two pair of leg irons on them if they require extra watching/.

DP: You're kind of talking about police and law enforcement.

FRISZ: Yeah.

DP: There was an era really during the time when also you were manager of the hotel that Terre Haute had quite a reputation.

FRISZ: Yeah.

DP: Was kind of a fast city.

FRISZ: Yeah.

DP: Did you kind of see this yourself in downtown Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Not much. We were never (knocks on wood) . . . we were never held up. We were never held up. The only thing we'd lose would be, (laughs) somebody'd steal a towel once in a while or a sheet or something like that.

DP: But was it pretty open in regards to gambling? I mean, was this obvious?

FRISZ: Was the town you mean?

DP: Yeah, in downtown Terre Haute.

FRISZ: Well, some years it was. Then they'd put the lid on it. Then they'd get the lid off and off and on, you know.

Then there was dances. A lot of people come down to dances. That's a shame that that's all gone now.

DP: That dancing brought a lot of people downtown on the weekends?

FRISZ: Yeah. A lot of the younger people, it gave them something to do outside of ridin' around in cars and parking and . . . got 'em drinking beer and spikin' stuff and all that, you know. That's

FRISZ: a crime! Of course, that's another story.

DP: Did you, you know, as a businessman live at the hotel?

FRISZ: You bet! You can't run one and not live in it. You gotta live in it. I think to . . . 'cause I'd get up in the middle of the night and get 'em out of there.

DP: What were some of the gambling places right downtown? Were there any that were pretty well-known to people?

FRISZ: Well, yeah, the gamblers knew. I never . . . I never was one to . . . I wasn't against it. I didn't care if they gambled, but I didn't care to.

DP: What other kinds of entertainment was there on weekends?

FRISZ: You know, along from 9th to 8th on the south side of Wabash Avenue where the pool rooms were, it wasn't bad gambling. They played cards or they'd play for money on a pool table or something. It was just kind of a friendly game. That wasn't really gambling. Your gambling houses were kind of the roadhouses out on the edge of town.

DP: They weren't right downtown?

FRISZ: I don't think so.

Now, the west end, that was a rough part of town -- 1st, 2nd and 3rd along in there. But they tended to their own business down there. And it was always my opinion they shouldn't put too much heat on them or you'd have them next door to you.

DP: In 1948, what was known as the business district? Can you kind of tell me the streets that bordered . . .

FRISZ: Well, about the same as now. I mean from 9th . . . there wasn't much from 9th to 8th. But from 8th to about 3rd. I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but I mean the west end was always the west end, you know.

DP: What about north or south of Wabash? Did it

DP: go very far?

FRISZ: Not much. Cherry Street and Ohio Street. It was about a three-street, you know, east and west -- the main arteries. And that was when they were, you know, two-way traffic on all of them.

DP: Did you see a lot of people from Illinois come to downtown Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Yeah, a lot of people from Illinois. Yeah. Yeah. And our business was mostly like traveling men and visitors, people that used to live here and come back to visit neighbors and friends. They didn't want to impose on them, and they'd rent a modest hotel room as long as we had a reputation of having clean rooms and clean beds and catered to desirable people. If they didn't look good, we would tell 'em we're full, you know, there's a lot of other hotels.

DP: You mentioned that you were manager of the Central Hotel for 20 years and 7 months beginning January 1, 1948. Why did the Central Hotel close? What was the final . . . /August 8, 1968/.

FRISZ: They were going to tear it down. They wanted to tear it down.

DP: Who was that? The owner?

FRISZ: Marshall. Leonard Marshall. He was president of the First National Bank, you know. And Hulman's . . . of course, Hulman had many lawyers in different cities and all. A man as big as him, he had lots of business. But Leonard Marshall . . . he /Anton Hulman, Jr./ consulted Marshall. He had a lot of respect for Leonard Marshall and I did, too. Except he was hard to get money out of. He was hard as hell to get . . .

DP: Did you still have a pretty good business at this time or had it declined?

FRISZ: Yeah. We were running along . . . we were running along okay. And it wasn't as . . . the downtown tapered off as it started building out on the edge because people could park /there/. You know, that Honey Creek /Square/ down there? That parking lot puts them in business. I mean that's my opinion anyway.

DP: You know, even here in the last five or ten years we've heard people complain that you can't park in downtown Terre Haute, and this might be one maybe small factor -- the reason why people don't go downtown. Was this even a problem back in 1948? Was there a parking problem?

FRISZ: Yeah, you had to go around the block several times before you could find one, unless you'd go to a parking lot. And back in those days you thought twice before you spent fifty cents. (laughs)

DP: Yeah, but could you park on the street for free or . . .

FRISZ: Yeah, until they put the meters in.

DP: Yeah.

FRISZ: And I didn't see anything wrong with them. Of course, everybody has their own ideas. I don't know why they took 'em out. By that I mean they could have . . . it would seem to me it would maybe pay to leave them in for a year or so. They might want to go back to them. I don't know.

DP: On the weekends, were there traffic problems? I mean was there times when there was a lot of people downtown?

FRISZ: No, it was pretty well diversified. I mean they . . . no, in fact back . . . the stores, I don't think there were many of them open at night either downtown.

DP: So, we were talking about just what there was to do in the evening in downtown Terre Haute. And were some of the stores open then at night?

FRISZ: Yeah. I think the main stores and that's where people liked to go. If you want to buy some clothes, you want good clothes so you go to go to a responsible and a good place. There was a lot of them down there, a lot of good stores. They don't all have to be big stores, you know. But that was just kind of . . . well, it's still going on but it's way off now because a lot of money's going out to the edge of town and they . . .

DP: Do you think that no matter what would have

DP: happened that there probably would have been a decline in downtown Terre Haute?

FRISZ: Yeah.

DP: As someone who's involved in business for 20 years, do you think it was just inevitable that it would have happened?

FRISZ: I think so. I think it's a trend. The trend was people want, what do you call it? Suburbs. You know, they want . . . like out here now, see. And now they're talking about doubling up . . . putting about 30 more stores down at Honey Creek. Goll, I'm afraid then . . . I'm wondering how that'll work. 'Cause then they'll have to do a lot of walking, park their car and walk, walk.

DP: We've been talking to Mr. Paul Frisz at his residence at 25 South 25th Street. It's June 3, 1981. This is a tape and interview for the /Vigo County/ Oral History /Program/ conducted by the Wabash Valley Press Club and the Vigo County Public Library.

END OF TAPE

PAUL FRISZ  
Tape 1

ADDENDA

ALBERT (COD) MYERS

- b. October 22, 1863 Danville, Illinois
- d. December 24, 1927 at his country home just west of the  
Indiana-Illinois state line on U.S. 40

Milwaukee signed him when the old Northwestern League folded.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RECORD

	<u>Games</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>
1884 Milwaukee (Union Assn.)	12	.326*
1885 Philadelphia (National L.)	93	.204
1886 Kansas City " "	118	.277
1887 Washington, D.C. " "	105	.232
1888 Washington, D.C. " "	132	.207
(1889 Washington, D.C. " "	46	.261
1889 Philadelphia " "	75	.269
1890 Philadelphia " "	117	.277
1891 Philadelphia " "	<u>135</u>	<u>.230</u>
	833	.245

\*Classified major league.

Note: Albert Myers participated in 833 games and 806 of them were at second base -- only 27 as a shortstop. He quit at the end of the 1891 season at the age of 28 -- reason: He owned a bar on Wabash Avenue (the Health Office) and moneywise it exceeded his baseball income.

NORTHWESTERN LEAGUE 1884

Ft. Wayne, Ind.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
Saginaw, Mich.  
Terre Haute, Ind.  
Quincy, Ill.  
Bay City, Mich.  
Grand Rapids, Mich.  
Muskegon, Mich.  
Peoria, Ill.  
Stillwater, Minn.

TERRE HAUTE, IND. PLAYERS  
RESERVED FOR 1884 SEASON

Stump, Albert  
Hullman, Tony  
Mappes, George  
Campbell, J. H.  
Donnelly, James B.  
Halbrieter, E.  
Donnelley, James (not related--  
different players)  
Grether, B. G.  
Van Dyke, W. J.  
Buckinberger, A. C.  
McQuery, W. F. (Mox)  
Murphy, H.  
Dorsey, M.  
Litz, A.

14 players

Above information from the SPALDING BASEBALL GUIDE--1884 issue  
with 1883 season figures. (See pp. 60 through 68.)

BASEBALL LEAGUES OPERATING IN THE YEAR 1901

MAJOR LEAGUES -- 2

National League  
American League

MINOR LEAGUES --

17

American Association  
Pacific Northwest League  
California League  
Utah League  
Virginia-North Carolina League  
Western Association  
Western League  
Connecticut League  
California League  
Three-I League  
Eastern League  
Southern League  
New York League  
New England League  
Texas League  
Pennsylvania League  
North Carolina League

Information taken from THE REACH GUIDE, 1902 issue.

## INDEX

- American League, 3  
Athletic Park, 5-6  
Baseball, 1-22, addenda  
Baseball fields, 2, 5-6  
Boxing, 22-27  
Brown, Mordecai, 8-13  
Brown, Ray, 12  
Carey, Max, 19-21  
Central Hotel, 14-15, 28-30, 33-45  
Coleman, Robert, 4, 12, 22  
Croxtton Hotel, 27-29  
Deming Hotel, 28, 39  
Donnelly, James B., 9  
Downtown, 31-32, 36, 40-41, 43-47  
Federal League, 14  
Gallagher, Andy, 1, 3  
Gallagher, Skeets, 1  
Gambling, 43-44  
Gibbons, Tommy, 23-24  
Hippodrome, 28  
Honey Creek Square, 32, 40, 45, 47  
Hotels, 14-15, 27-30, 33-45  
Hulman, Anton, Jr., 45  
Interstate 70, 40  
Knights of Columbus Club, 24  
Krieg, Bill, 8-9  
Little League, 7, 18  
McMillan, Vern, 16-17  
Marshall, Leonard, 34, 36-37, 45  
Mason, Frank, 24-25  
Memorial Stadium, 6, 18  
Morrissey, Ernestine Myers, 1  
Myers, Albert "Cod," 1-3, 9, addenda  
Myers, William "Kid," 1-3  
National League, 1-2  
Nehf, Art, 8  
Northwestern League, 2-3, 5, addenda  
Stump, Albert, 3  
Taylor, Bud, 22-27  
Terre Haute Awkwards, 1  
Terre Haute Blues, 1  
Terre Haute House, 28-29, 39  
Three-I League, 4-13, 17-18  
Transportation, 6-7, 31-32, 40  
Tuller Hotel, 33, 37-38  
West end, 44  
Whitcraft, Roy, 6